

JUSTIN D. LATHIA

Cambridge Scholar 2003

Degrees: Drexel University: M.S., Biomedical Engineering, 2003; B.S. Engineering, 2003

Research Interests: Developmental Neurobiology



An A.J. Drexel Scholar & Drexel University Honors Program student, Justin Lathia graduated with a combined B.S./M.S. in Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. Justin has received many academic honors, including USA Today All-Academic 3rd Team, induction into the Golden Key National Honors Society, the 2002 Director's Award for best biomedical engineering undergraduate student, and first place in multiple graduate and undergraduate poster competitions. Justin has participated in diverse research activities, such as the study of the response of cells to mechanical stimuli, work on the alternatives to biological vaccine cleaning validation, and the degradation of polymeric ultrasound contrast agents. Most recently, he has worked on the development of novel targeted ultrasound contrast agents with Dr. Margaret Wheatley for his master's thesis. Justin has featured in various publications over the past two years to present his work. He worked in industry for a year with Merck & Co., where he contributed to biological vaccine manufacturing. Justin is pursuing his thesis work with Mahendra Rao, Maeve Caldwell, and Charles French-Constant investigating the influence of the extracellular matrix on the behavior of neural stem cells. He presented his current work on laminin at several national and international conferences including the 2004 Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA and the 2005 Joint Meeting of British Society for Cell Biology/British Society for Developmental Biology. He desires to make an advance by combining his biological and engineering background for "the development of therapeutic biomaterials to promote specific cellular attachment for applications such as stem cell therapy."

